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MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

French Broad Baptist Sunday School Convention,

HELD WITH THE

MORGAN HILL SCHOOL, BUNCOMBE COUNTY, N. C., OCTOBER 14TH, 15TH, 16TH AND 17TH, 1875.

F. M. WILLIAMS, Secretary, Morgan Hill, N. C.

MORGAN HILL, BUNCOMBE COUNTY, N. C., }
11 o'clock A. M., Oct. 14th, 1875. }

The French Broad Baptist S. S. Convention met according to adjournment in its Fifth Annual Session. The Brother appointed to preach the introductory sermon (Elder W. T. Bradley) being absent, Elder John Ammons was called upon and introduced the business of the day by reading a chapter and prayer.

The Secretary being absent, F. M. Williams was appointed Secretary pro tem. pending the organization.

Appointed Elders W. T. Bradley and S. J. Morgan Reading Clerks.

Read reports from seven Schools, and enrolled delegates names as follows:

Morgan Hill: John P Morgan, Silas R Williams, A M Robertson, R K Freeman, James N Morgan, Thomas C Morgan, Luther J Williams and M N Bradley.

Little Creek: Wm Calahan, B N Keith, Jesse Calahan and J H Calahan.

California: Elder W T Bradley, W W McPeters, E B Hamlin, W B Murray and T J Murray.

Big Ivy: Jac Reed, Z J Carter, J H Woodward, J M McKinney, J B Whittemore, S M Buckner, E B Goldsmith and T S Dillingham.

Clear Branch: W A Sams, Jesse Clouse and J Brown.

Gabriels' Creek: S Ammons and P Buckner.

Asheville: F Marion Williams, proxy.

On motion, the election of officers, being next in order, was deferred until to-morrow 11 o'clock a. m.

On motion, invited visitors of our Order to seats in the Convention.

Appointed the following Committees:

On Religious Exercises—John P Morgan, J H Woodward and Wm Calahan.

On Finance—W B Murray and J B Whittemore.

On S. S. Work—Elders W T Bradley, John Ammons, Brethren S Ammons and S R Williams.

Received the following (by Elder John Ammons) as an order of business:

1st. Appoint Committees.

2nd. Hear Reports of Committees.

3rd. Open Question Drawer.

4th. Resolutions and miscellaneous business.

On motion, the Introductory Sermon was preached at night by the Brother appointed last year, from Col., 3: 17.

Adjourned until 10 o'clock a. m to-morrow. Prayer by Elder W T Bradley. Benediction by Elder S J Morgan.

FRIDAY, 10 o'clock A. M.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Devotional exercises by Elder John Ammons. Read and adopted yesterday's minutes. Called the roll and marked absentees.

Election of officers being next in order, James H. Woodward and W. A. Sams were appointed tellers. Election resulted as follows: Elder W. T. Bradley President, J T Morgan Vice-President, and F. M. Williams Secretary and Treasurer.

The following report on S. S. Work was read and adopted:

There are various opinions upon the subject of Sunday Schools, and the nature and importance of the work seems not to be fully understood.

1st. As to the nature; it is teaching instead of preaching, and as such is a formative work. The Sunday School teacher goes to the youth of the land as the common school teacher does, in a literary sense.

It is his work to awaken thought and inquiry, to instruct in doctrine, and to lay foundations for moral and religious growth; he should therefore himself be taught. He ought to be sound in the faith and sound in doctrine. He that is not well grounded and settled in the truth is not fit for the work of teaching others. It is not enough to know the truth, but it must not be sold or compromised. Our work is exclusive, i. e., we propose to teach what we believe, and should we fail to do this we shall be unfaithful to God and men; we shall be hypocrites. Taking God's word as the only grounds of our faith, we cannot consent to teach anything else than that word, nor can we consent to the election system, which would leave out of view the great doctrines of the Bible because they might be offensive to some minds. We are bound as Baptists to teach what Baptists believe, and if in the nature of moral sequence possible, make Baptists of all we teach. This we are not to do by persuading any to be Baptists, but by instructing them in God's truth which made us Baptists.

We advocate Bible Schools, but what we mean by 'Bible Schools' is that the Bible should be the standard to which is referred every doctrine and practice, and that everything in the Bible must be taught, and taught just in time and place as fixed in the Bible.—Every word of God's truth is precious, and it is at the peril of our

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souls to neglect it.

2nd. Importance of the work.

It has already been said that the Sunday School work is foundation work, and as such it underlies the religious lives of thousands. He that takes the Bible as his guide builds according to the words of his Master, and his structure shall not fall; but how many fail here! How momentous the question, "How shall I build for eternity?" Every man's religious life is like his teaching, it grows out of it; hence if one should be taught in early life to neglect any portion of the Scripture, it will mar the beauty of his life thoroughly all time to come. Again.we work for the children and among them. If we would win them to Jesus we must do faithful work.

The period of childhood and youth is a formative period. All the character which one shall have in the future will take shape and form and color from the teachings of his childhood. Thus you see that as teachers you shall live in those you teach.

From the reports from the schools it appears that there has been an aim, an end to accomplish, but this objection must be more fully brought out.

Your Committee would urge all the workers in this Convention to enlarge the sphere of their operations. Bible Schools should be organized in every Church in this land and in every destitute neighborhood, and thus teaching and preaching a pure doctrine, we shall contribute to the coming of the "Kingdom of God" for which we are taught to pray daily.

Brethren, Baptists, cease to stultify yourselves by preaching one thing and doing another. Baptist or Bible Schools for Baptist Churches. W. T. Bradley, Chair'n.

On motion, adjourned to 9:30 o'clock a. m. to-morrow.

Prayer by the Secretary. Benediction by Elder John Ammons.

SATURDAY, 9:30 o'clock A. M.

Convention met persnant to adjournment. Devotional exercises by Brother J. P. Morgan. Read and adopted yesterday's minutes.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That this Convention request the Schools in this body to take stated collections for missionary purposes—Home and Foreign.

Resolved, That this Convention are of opinion that Superintendents ought to appoint the teachers in the Schools.

Agreed to hold our next Annual Meeting with "Clear Branch" School, Washington county, Tenn., to commence Thursday night before the first Sunday in August, 1876. Elder S. J. Morgan to preach the introductory sermon.

Appointed the Secretary to superintend the printing of the minutes of the Convention.

Adjourned to time and place above named. Prayer by Brother Judson Morgan. Benediction by Elder John Ammons.

SUNDAY EXERCISES.

Preaching at 11 o'clock by Brother Judson Morgan, text, Rev., 3: 20. Procession of the Morgan Hill School and the delegates representing the various other schools after preaching.

Reassembled in the house, where Elder John Ammons elabo-

rately addressed the congregation on the importance of early training the youths of our country.

ELDER W. T. BRADLEY, President.

F. MARION WILLIAMS, Secretary.

———(o)———

Constitution.

1st. This Convention shall be known as the "French Broad Baptist Sunday School Convention."

2nd. It shall be composed of delegates representing Baptist Sunday Schools and Baptist Churches.

3rd. Its objects shall be to encourage and foster the Sunday School work, by holding annual meetings and oftener if thought necessary, and by whatever means may be thought advisable.

4th. Its officers shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected at the annual meeting by ballot and hold their offices until their successors are chosen.

5th. The President shall preside in all the meetings of the Convention, and enforce the rules of order. The Secretary shall record all the proceedings of the Convention, and conduct its correspondences, and the Treasurer shall keep all funds committed to his care, and disburse them according to the order of the Convention.

6th. All elections shall be by ballot, and a majority shall be necessary to a choice.

7th. The Schools shall report name of delegates, number of scholars, officers and teachers, together with a synopsis of the work of the year and the number of periodicals and other Sunday School literature used in the school and the amount expended in Sunday School requisites.

8th. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

———(o)———

Rules of Order.

1st. Every meeting shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2d. Every speaker shall rise to his feet and address the President.

3d. No question shall be discussed until second d, and all resolutions shall be reduced to writing, signed by the mover and handed to the Chair, before debate.

4th. No speaker shall indulge in unnecessary criticism upon the remarks or manner of another, but the members shall be required to treat each other with the utmost kindness, and should any depart from this rule the President or any member may call him to order.

5th. Every question shall be decided by the majority of the votes which shall be ascertained by the yeas and nays, except questions relating to the Constitution, which shall require two-thirds of the whole number present either to alter or amend.

6th. Should the President refuse to enforce these rules he may be displaced by a motion, seconded by a majority of the Convention.

Printed at the CITIZEN JOB OFFICE, Asheville, N, C.

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